

Application No.: 09/997570

Case No.: 57002US002

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response responds to the Office Action mailed April 16, 2004, in which claim 14 was rejected and claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12, and 22 were allowed. Claims 1 and 5-26 remain pending in the application. Claims 2-4 were previously cancelled. Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 15-21 and 23-26 were previously withdrawn. With this Amendment, claim 14 is amended.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 14 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wenger, U.S. Patent No. 6,158,077.

With respect to claim 14, the Office Action states that Wenger teaches the claimed cleaning device. Independent claim 14 has been amended to specify that the cleaning device is for cleaning optical fiber surfaces. Furthermore, amended claim 14 provides that the movable strip, in addition to moving relative to a projection, moves relative to a fiber optic surface in contact with a side of the movable strip opposite the side adjacent to the projection. This amendment is supported by the specification, *e.g.*, at p. 11, lines 7-9.

Applicants respectfully submit that according to MPEP 2131 “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Wenger does not disclose a cleaning device for optical fiber surfaces nor does it disclose a movable strip that moves relative to a projection and a fiber optic surface with which it is in contact. Accordingly, the reference does not describe every element of the claimed invention.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wenger has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that, in addition to the previously allowed claims, independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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